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# WHEN LIGHTNING STRIKES

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*(Condensed from Popular Science Monthly)*

LIGHTNING KILLS more people, usually one by one, than hurricanes, earthquakes, floods and other mass disasters.

The Air Ministry estimates that, the world over, there are 16 million thunderstroms a year, 44,000 a day. central Africa, southern mexico, Panama, central Brazil and Madagascar get lots of lightning, but the island of Java tops them all, with thunderstorms on an average of 223 days every year.

Lightning comes up with some queer freaks. Two men were fishing from a steel skiff off the U.S. Atlantic Coast last summer when a sudden thunderstorm blew up. Lightning struck one man's steel rod, flashed down the zipper of his jacket and killed him instantly. The other fisher man was stuned, recovered.

A party of girls were hurrying back to camp through a mountain canyon one day last August when they were overtaken by a storm. A lightning bolt electrocuted four girls and a camp supervisor, and temporarily paralysed eight others.

Reports from those who have been hit and lived to tell about it vary considerably. Patricia Wilson, 14, was walking to school in Tulsa, Oklahoma, when, in a flash, her raincoat was shredded to tatters. "I felt a buzz and a couple of pains in the head," she said. "In a minute I was all right, so I went to school."

Roy Huffman, jolted while standing in the doorway of his lakeside cottage in Ohio, had his shoes ripped off, legs singed, trousers torn, two toes broken. "A green flame enveloped me," he said. "It felt as if thousands of red-hot needles—and I mean really hot—were sticking me."

There are some amazing reports about non-human targets,too. Joseph Nicol's potato patchin New York State was struck, and the spuds were roasted "soft enough to mash." In Virginia, a railway stop-and go signal was reversed—with the result that two train collided.

Down Through the ages lightning has made man's hair stand on end, his eyes bulge out in terror. Not until 200 years ago was any scientific study attempted. Then a shrewd and inquisitive philadelphia printers, Benjamin Franklin, flew a silk kite into a summer thunderstorm. To the lower end of the cord was tied a piece of silk string holding a metal key. Franklin repeatedly touched his bare knuckle to key; each time he saw a strong spark and felt a shock, thus proving the heavenly brilliance to be electricity. Why he was't killed or at least knocked senseless has been a marvel to scientists ever since. For once, the proverbial luck of fools was granted to a sage.

Men have cautiously tinkered with lightning and thunderclouds ever since, but only within the past 30 years have we learned much more than Franklin knew. scientists now say the earth is like a giant condenser from which current continully leaks into the atmosphere; thunderstorms are nature's batteries for keeping the condenser recharged.

Each stroke of lightning releases from the air large quantites of nitrogen, in the form of nitrous acid, which is essential to the soil for plant production. Dr. B. F. J. Schonland of South Africa—one of the world's foremost lightning authorities—estimates the annual production of nitrous acid by lightning at 100 million tons, which far exceeds the output of all the man-made-fertilizer plants in the world.

Dr. Horace Byers, professor of meteorology at the University of Chicoao and director of a government thunderstorm

project in New Mexico in 1946 and 1947, says those cauliflower-shaped thunderclouds that tower in the summer skies are produced chiefly by swift-rising air currents. "Rising warm air mixes with cold down-draughts," he points out, "creating a terrific turbulence. A thundercloud is like an electric mixer gone berserk. Winds churn and boil at speeds up to100 miles an hour, carrying with them tremendous quantities of water—perhaps as much as 800,000 tons—in the form of raindrops, snowflakes or hailstones."

This much is known for certain, because Dr. Byers and others have flown "Black Widow" fighter planes loaded with equipment into wildly beating hearts of thunderstorms. But from here on, scientific speculation takes over. It is generally accepted, however, that great negative charges of electricity accumulate on the bottom of thunderclouds. On the earth, meanwhile,positive charges are accumulating and follow the cloud along like a swarm of bee—up trees, church steeples and chimneys—attracted by the pull of the negative charges in the cloud.

"When this tension between positive and negative becomes strong enough," says Dr. Byers, "the cloud puts out an invisible 'leader' stroke to explore the path of least resistance to the ground. Once this contact is made, a brilliant lightning flash jumps upwards from earth to clouds(it only *seems* to jump in the other direction) at a speed of 22 million miles per hour."

There are two kinds of lightning—"hot" and "cold". The cold variety will explode a haystack, a tree or a house, but flash so quickly—in less than 1/10,000 of a second —that it sets no fire. Hot lightning maintains its electric flash from 100 to 1,000 ttmes as long and burns whatever it hits. Sometimes its temperatures reach 27,000-F., considerably hotter than the surface of the sun.

The air along the path of a lightning bolt expands enormously. The core of this path is about the size of your finger but in a flash explodes into a column of fire as big as the calf of your leg. As this heated air cools and shrinks, other air rushes into the space This sequence of events makes the noise we call thunder.

You can calculate how far away lightning has struck by timing the lapse between flash and thunderclap. Since sound travels about a mile in five seconds, a ten-seconds gap, for instance, means two miles between you and the bolt.

What can the human being todo protect *himself* against lightning? Here are the safety rules offered dy Dr. E. L. Harder, chief lightning engineer for the Westinghouse company:

1 When a thunderstorm threatens,cancel that golf date (three out of every million golfers are struck by lightning each year): put your bicycle in the garage; leave your tractor in the barn; eat your picnic lunch at home.

2. If you get caught out of door run, don't walk, to the nearest shelter—prefarably a sizeable building. When no building is near, lie flat on the gronud until the storm is over.

3. Avoid isolated trees, watertowers, exposed ridges and peaks. (One-third of the toll of lightning deaths occur under trees. A grove is considerably safer than a single tree.)

4. Keep away from wire fences, wires of all kinds and metal pipes.

5. If you're swimming or bathing, get on dry land quickly.

6. In side a house, stay clear of stoves, fireplaces, attics, doors and windows. Above all, don't take a bath or shower during the storm.

7. If you're caught while in a motor-car, on a bus or riding in a train, stay put—you're relatively safe there. And an all-metal aeroplane is almost as safe as a motor-car,

Better observe these rules. We can't all have the luck Charles Brown of Kenton, Ohio, who has been struck by lightning ten times.

"I've already used up one more life than a cat," he said when he recovered consciousness after the tenth stroke. "I guess I'll gave to be careful from now on."

*From the New York Sunday Mirror*

# The Car-Backfire Killing

*A miracle helped trap thel murderers, but did not save the victim.*

NORTH of the Chattahoochce and west of Atlanta, through the rich farmlans of Georgia's Codd and And Carroll Counties, the roads wind tortuously among the wooded hills and fertile valleys But past Marietta on the way to Corrollton, a string-straight stretch runs north-westward across what, on that bright June morning in 1938, was a narrow wooden bridge that spanned Mahaffey's Cut and the tracks of the Seaboard AirLine Railway.

That was why the two highway patrolmen who stood on the bridge that morning figured that the driver of the wrecked automobile lying below must have last control of the car: there was no dangerous curve he might have misjudged. It was a miracle that the car had not burned. or that it and its occupants had not been ground to an unrecognisable mass by the train that had rushed past only an hour before. The car had left the highway at some distance from the bridge and plunged up-side down on the ticks. Then it had bounced across them. righted itself and come to rest a score of yards from the rails.

The miracle was of no concern to the two whose bodies lay near the wreck, thrown through burst doors. J. Edward Peek, Atlanta sales manager, and his wife, Matte, Could not have been more dead had the car been burned or smashed to pieces under the wheels of the train. But the fact that it hadn't been was of great concern to a number of others. Because Ed and Mattie Peek had been murdered.

It did not take long for the highway patrolmen, nor the other officials who joined them, to deduce what had happened. Ed Peek had been killed by repeated blows on the head, struck from behind. A short length of rope had been knotted around Mattie's neck, strangling her. The clothing of both had been soaked in kerosene. The car seats were soaked in blood. The car had not been in gear; the ignition switch was on. The conclusion was obvious: the Peeks had been murdered in the car and the car pushed over the embankment into Mahaffey's Cut. The killers han assumed the car and the bodies would burn, or that a train would wipe out all evidence of murder. That plan, a miracle had prevented.

At a mortuary in Marietta, identification of the bodies war established by a 20-year-old blonde, Helen Peek. The victims were her father and her stepmother, wnom Peek had married three months before


## LOSS OF SEXUAL VIGOUR IN MEN

*Contents* :—**Potency hart of Dr. W. Stekle-symptoms of loss of sexual vigour in men—causes and other interesting information.**

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The girl said her father had been worried over finances: he had suffered recent reverses She thought the case might be one of suicide, but the officers already knew better.

To Helen's aid, in response to her call, there promptly arrived arrived a tall young man she introduced as Bill Chappell. He scarcely needed an introduction to Cobb County Sheriff Edwin Legg nor the other officials. Bill was the 25-year-old son of W. Hamp Chappell, a political power in the area by virtue of his long-held position of Commissioner of Roads and Revenue in Carroll County. Bill, among other business ventures, owned a recreation centre and bowling alley in Marietta. Helen managed it for him. Bill, she said, was the best friend she had left in the world.

Neither Helen nor Bill could help the officers in assigning a motive for the crime. The Peeks, they said, had no enemies. The clues and circumstances of which the police learned were confused to the point of bafflement. Three men had been driving along the the night before and each reported strange goings-on. One, 21-year -old Arthur Brewer, had been returning from Atlanta, where he'd delivered a load of farm produce. He'd passed a car, which appeared to be deserted by the roadside No one was in sight. He slowed down, then drove on. As a did so, he saw, reflected in his rear view mirror, lights from the parked car, The lights blinked. Two other men announced they'd seen the same phenomenon, at different places on the road.

The officers had two slim clues. One was the length of rope that had strangled Mattie Peek. The other—a negative clue —was the fact that one of Mattie's shoes was missing. It didn't seem much as it turned out both clues led to the same spot: the Carroll County County conv ic camp, near Carrollton.

It was on the afternoon of the day the crime was discovered that County Officer Esmer Ward went to the Peek home in Atlanta. There he found a young woman who had lived with the Peeks. yes, she said, the couple had left the previous afternoon to drive to the convict camp to have dinner with Bill Chappell at the guards' mess hail. In addition to his other interests, Bill was carred on the county pay-roll as a guard at the camp.

And in the Peek attic were stored hams. flour, canned goods, coffee, sugar, other ataples, all in cases marked with tbe name of the prison camp. The stock, said the girl who lived with the Peeks, waa constantly being removed–and constantly replenished.

The convict camp held the key. There it was learned that young Chappell much to the surprise of Warden Charles Spence, had been systematically looting the supplies of the camp—which, from time to time, came under his supervision —and selling them, with Peek acting as his agent. And the men had quarrelled over the proceeds.

These were the parts in the circumstantial case that the authorities now had constructed. but it was more than two years before they were finally fitted tog ether. There was the en'renched influ. ence of the Chappell dynasty in Carrol-county to fight.

By the time the accused killers of Mr- and Mrs. Peek were placed on trial—July 29, 1940—it was tall, cavadeverous Lewis Turner who proved to be the leading witness, Turner, whose periodic auto thefts were always committed while he was drunk, told the complete story.

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Start using Restora and let your mirror prove results. Your hair will stop falling out, dandruff will go, bald spots will be gradually covered with new hair, and grey hair will get back its natural colour.

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He and Jason Clark had been induced by Chappell to take a night off from their prison cells. Chappell had directed matters. They had met the Peeks in front of the Carroll County Courthouse. Chappell had entered the Peeks' car, put Turner at the wheel of his owu auto, and directed him to follow. There had been several stops along the roadside and a lot of drinking. Somewhere along the route, they had picked up John Holsombach, an oldtime bootlegger. who procured more liquor.

Near Austell. Chappell had turned on to a dirt road. Turner saw Clark hit Peek repeatedly with a hammer. He saw Chappell seize Mrs. Peek and drag her from the car, where Holsombach dispatched her with the rope.

The two cars proceeded separately toward Mahaffey's Cut, that driven by Turner going ahead. The blinking lights were his; Chappell had directed him to signal in the event any other cars came along.

Near the bridge, the kerosene had been poured over the bodies and the car pushed in to the ravine.

Chappell, Holsombach and Clark were found guilty and sentenced to life imprisonment—the second such sentence for the convict, who was already a lifer. Turner drew a term of three to five years.

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# RELIEF FOR PAIN-RIDDLED JOINTS

BY HERB BAILEY

●

YOU know the story of ACTH and cortisone, the glandular substances which have miraculously aided bedridden rheumatics, choking asthmatics, and which help in a score of other human disorders ranging from the weakness of a premature baby to the infirmities produced by old age. Children who suffer from acute rheumatic fever with consequent heart damage in two thirds of the cases are now protected with ACTH or cortisone; it prevents the heart damage. The hormones prevent blindness from many eye inflammation. They also help control ulcerative colitis.

Now comes proof of an even more spectacular use of a hormone, The first major clinical evidence of hydrocortisone's efficacy came from Dr. Joseph Hollander and associates at the University of Pennsylvania's Medical School hospital.

During the past year, Dr. Hallander & his reserch team injected hydrocortisone directly into the severely rheumatic joints of 129 patients. For control purposes, they also tried cortisone.

Result was they got little or no benefit from even large doses of cortisone, while almost every case in which the joint could be reached by the hypodermic needle, responded dramatically to hydrocortisone!

They found it takes only one small shot 52) milligrams—less the weight of a grain of sand!) of hydro cortisone a *week* to bring smiles of relief from pain-convulsed patients. Here was something neither ACTH nor cortisone could do! ACTH has to be given by injection daily with the average dose around 63-30 milligrams; this amount has to be tripled for cortisone whether given by injection or by mouth.

The new studies do not mean that treatments with ACTH and cortisone will be supplanted; *the findings do mean that medical science has opened a great new vista of treatment aud those many millions of sufferers who can be treated by local injections—that is, directly into the afflicted joint—will now be able to afford this relatively low-cost hormone therapy.*

Dr. Hollander and his research team selected 69 patients with active rheumatoid arthritis in both knees. One knee served as the untreated "control" while the other was iujected with either cortisone or hydrocortisone.

In those injected with cortisone, *none* showed any signficant improvement. The inside temperature of their knees remained high, proving continued inflammation. Larger doses of cortisone in some cases actually produced irritation with an increase in discomfort and swelling.

In other words, the patients received no relief in either knee.

But in the 51 patients treated with hydrocortisone, *all* experienced freedom from pain and could use their leg freely within 24 hours! In the knees hypoed with hydrocortisone, temperature fell toward normal in almost every case, indicating alleviation of the infection. Swelling had so diminished, it was impossible to draw knee fluid except in seven instances.

But the untreated knees were still swollen and pain-wrecked. Now came a dramatic test for the miracle substance. On some patients, the researchers "reversed knces." They let the hydrocortisone die out of the previously treate knee. Slowly it returned to its previous state of torture for the patient. Then they shot their magic needle in to the control knee Overnight, swelling and pain had gone and use of the limbreturned.

The elated doctors tried other inflamed joints: ankles, shoulders, elbows, hips, wrists fingers, all swollen and crippled with the dread rheumatoid

arthritis. The results were the same: almost immediate, *prolonged* relief. In some patients where the joints were crippled badly, slightly larger doses of hydrocortisone were needed to work the miracle.

Three important questions were uppermost in the minds of the doctors as they inserted the tiny hypodermics. Would repeated doses make the patient immune to the drug? Would the inevitable relapse to the pre-treatment state be worse than if the patient had no treat ment at all? And would there be troublesome side effects — the nervousness, rashes, high blood pressure, even

Patiently, the researchers tested the new hormone month after month. In all they made 700 injections, Finally, when the returns were in, they were as happy as their patients, for the answers were a positive '*no*" to all three questions.

But of the whole series, only two patients had to be giveen increasing doses of the hormone because of a diminished response.

In every case the relapse was slow and in no case was the patient worse than before.

Also there were no side reaction to the hermone. Not one!

Further, only one injection a week on the average was needed to relieve the joints of the rheumatoid sufferers, even the most severe! Many times the effect lasted much longer.

Next, the doctors turned to osteoarthritis to see what effect their newly found marvel would have. This type of arthritis is due to general wear and tear on the joints and comes with old age.

Symptoms of the disease may not be more than an oceasional twinge, then again—as it happens too often—the disease may cause great pain, serious impediment in activities.

ACTH and cortisone haven't helped much in osteoarthritis and their use isn't encouraged by doctors, since older people are more affected adversely by hormone therapy than younger people. By and large up to now, little in the way of real medical relief could be objectively reported.

Now in hydrocortisone the Pennsylvania research team believes it has found a great part of the answer to oseoarthritis. For 36 out of 37 patients injected with a minute amount of hydrocortisone for got their ailing joints in a few hours!

What's more, the relief lasted much longer then in the cases of rheumatoid arthrits—about three weeks on the average.

Two women had osteoarthritis of the hip—a most serious form of the disease. Internally administered cortisone had failed to relieve them, One shot of hydrocortisone in the diseased hip and both were marveling the next day—as they strolled along without pain—how it could have happened. Relief lasted 7 days in one woman and 13 days in the other. Re-injection in both has produced the same long-lasting effects.

The results in local treatments of rheumatoid arthritis and osteoar-thritis were so favourable that it is reasonable to assume similar corroborating results should be expected if the hydrocortisone were used in these other diseases.

For instance. in the two cases of gout treated by the Penn researchers, one was in a late stage, that is gritty calcified deposits were found in his knee joint as a result of the faulty metabolism which is thought to cause gout, the other case was well advanced also and responded to conventional treatment only moderately.

Both sufferers. when injected with the custo mary 25 mi.ligrams or a tiny speck of hydrocortisone, reacted in the by now expected way. Their pains and swelling left within 24 hours and they walked without the slightest crouble. Although it's been several months sine the one injection no recurrence in either! Both are still following the routine management of gout however.

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Many people suffer from skin diseases which they cannot cure despite treatment with ointments, blood mixtures ets., They do not get cured because these medicines cannot remove from the blood the impurities etc, Which cause skin diseases. Until this is done, a proper cure cannnt be effected.

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*Prices*:— One bottle Rs. 5; three bottles Rs. 14, six bottles Rs. 27, postage etc., extra.

If you suffer from any skin or blood disease, write for this free booklet "**How to Cure Skin and Boold Diseases Permanently.**" It gives full information and the best way to get a lasting cure.

**The British Chemical Works**

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# WORRIED WOMEN!

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